

## **EXCLUSIVE: Wauwatosa City Clerk Violates State Law By Accepting Absentee Ballots By Email!**

**By Mark Belling, WISN-AM Wauwatosa**

City Clerk Melanie Kollmansberger is violating Wisconsin state law by saying her office will accept absentee ballots in the ongoing spring election by email. It is against Wisconsin law to accept emailed absentee ballots. By state law, absentee ballots must either be sent by traditional US Postal mail or in person. The Wisconsin Election Commission's own website explicitly states absentee ballots may not be emailed. The following is pasted directly from the Wauwatosa City Clerk website: You may email absentee ballots to the City Clerk's Office at [tclerk@wauwatosa.net](mailto:tclerk@wauwatosa.net). You will need to include specific information on your absentee ballot, which is explained below. The first day to vote in person by absentee ballot for the Tuesday, April 7, 2020 election is Tuesday, March 17, 2020. All in person absentee ballots must be submitted by Friday, April 3, 2020 at 5:00 pm. Ballots must be received by the Clerk's Office by Election Day in order to be counted. Please submit your ballots as soon as possible. The above advice is contrary to Wisconsin state law. Under Wisconsin law, absentee ballots may be REQUESTED by email but can be submitted only by postal mail or in-person. Melanie Kollmansberger is the only election official I am aware of in the State of Wisconsin claiming she will accept emailed absentee ballots. I will update this story as necessary.

**Mark Belling March 18**

### **UPDATE:**

Wauwatosa's city administrator, Jim Archambo, has responded to me and state Republican officials with the explanation that the absentee voting instructions on the city's website were a "typo." Clerk Kollmansberger has not directly responded but she works for the city administrator. Archambo claims they have not actually accepted any emailed absentee ballots and won't accept them.

I have been given no explanation as to how the error occurred or whether or not the city clerk did not understand the law. I have asked Wauwatosa Police Chief Barry Weber to investigate to make sure no emailed ballots were sent in, regardless of the administrator's claim that none were emailed.

To Wauwatosa's credit, they have been offering in-person voting all week unlike many other communities in the region with lazier public officials.

**Mark Belling**

**March 19**

